

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 AGR-20 STR-08

RSR-01 CU-04 AEC-11 SCI-06 ACDA-19 MBFR-03 GAC-01

SAJ-01 OMB-01 /204 W

----- 035584

R 111300 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4652

INFO USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMCONSUL BELFAST

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, EI, US

SUBJ: IRISH FONMIN URGES IMPROVED IRISH- US UNDERSTANDING

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN MAJOR DAIL FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENT
MAY 9 (REPORTED SEPTEL) IRISH FONMIN GARRET FITZGERALD
DIRECTED SIGNIFICANT EMPHASIS TO IRELAND' S RELATIONS
WITH U. S., IN BILATERAL, EC, AND EUROPEAN DEFENSE CONTEXT.
HE SAID THAT CHANGE IN EUROPEAN RELIANCE ON
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US TROOPS STATIONED IN EUROPE WAS NOT RPT NOT POSSIBLE, DESIRABLE, OR LIKELY. NOTING IRISH DEPENDENCE ON LARGE- SCALE- US INVESTMENT, HE SAID IRELAND SHOULD NOT RELY UNDULY ON HAVING SPECIAL POSITION IN RELATION TO U. S. AND THAT ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WILL NOT BE INFLUENCED BY SENTIMENT. FITZGERALD SAID GOI WOULD STRIVE TO IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING IN IRELAND- US RELATIONS AND TO INITIATE ACTION IN INFORMATIONAL AND CULTURAL AREAS FOR THIS PURPOSE. HE ALSO SAID RECENT KISSINGER INITIATIVE RE US- EUROPE RELATIONSHIP WAS UNDER GOI EXAMINATION AND WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH EUROPEAN PARTNERS. END SUMMARY.

1. FITZGERALD FIRST ALLUED TO U. S. IN DISCUSSING IRISH ATTITUDE TOWARD EUROPEAN DEFENSE, NOTING ANXIETY OF US TO REVIEW ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH WESTERN EUROPE AND PARTICULARLY WITH EC-- DESIRE STIMULATED BY ECONOMIC AS WELL AS POLITICAL FACTORS. " THERE ARE SIGNS THAT IN THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE US THAT AN ATTEMPT MAY BE MADE BY THE LATTER COUNTRY TO DRAW INTO THE DISCUSSION OF THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THESE TWO AREAS, THE QUESTION OF THE DEFENCE ROLE OF ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES." FITZGERALD SAID IRELAND WOULD CONTINUE ITS POLICY OF NON- INVOLVEMENT IN NATO AND WEU, BUT WOULD MAKE DISCINTCTIONS BETWEEN EXISTING ALLIANCES AND POSSIBLE FUTURE INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN DEFENSE BODY.

2. FITZGERALD SAID THAT IRELAND, WITH FREEDOM FROM DEFENSE COMMITMENTS, COULD PLAY ACTIVE, IF MINOR ROLE TOWARD ATMOSPHERE OF FURTHER EUROPEAN DETENTE, COULD ENCOURAGE EC INTIATIVES TOWARD REDUCING TENSIONS AND DISCOURAGE AMBITIONS FOR EMERGENCY OF EUROPEAN MILITARY SUPER- POWER. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED, GOI MUST HAVE REGARD FOR IMPORTANCE MANY OF ITS EC PARTNERS ATTACH TO US DEFENSE LINK, GIVEN UNLIKELIHOOD THAT ACCEPTABLE AND EXCLUSIVELY EUROPEAN DEFENSE SYSTEM WILL EMERGE FOR SOME CONSIDERABLE TIME TO COME. HE SAID IRISH POSITION ENABLES IT TO PURSUE POLICY OF OPENNESS WITH NON- EC MEMBERS, INCLUDING US, EUROPEAN NEUTRALS, THIRD WORLD AND EAST EUROPE.

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3. PASSAGE OF SPEECH DEVOTED SPECIFICALLY TO U. S. FOLLOWS:

" WITH RESPECT TO U. S., THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE PROSPECT OF SITUATION ARISING IN WHICH WESTERN EUROPE WOULD BE PREPARED TO, OR INDEED COULD WITH SECURITY AND ASSURANCE,

DISPENSE WITH US TROOPS NOW STATIONED IN EUROPE WHOSE INVOLVEMENT IS SEEN BY MANY WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AS ESSENTIAL TO MAKE US NUCLEAR DETERRENT EFFECTIVE IN DEFENSE OF WESTERN EUROPE. MOREOVER, IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED THAT IF THIS RELATIONSHIP ENDED, WHOLE OF WESTERN EUROPE WOULD FACE NEED FOR RADICAL RE-APPRAISAL OF DEFENSE POLICIES, INCLUDING PRESSURE FOR EUROPEAN NUCLEAR DETERRENT, AND EXPANSION OF CONVENTIONAL FORCES, INADEQUACY OF WHICH COULD ENCOURAGE, AND PERHAPS MAKE INEVITABLE, RESORT TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOR DEFENSE AGAINST ATTACK. SUCH RE-APPRAISAL COULD POSE COMPLICATIONS FOR THIS COUNTRY, BOTH IN TERMS OF PRESSURE FOR INVOLVEMENT IN ANY EUROPEAN DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT INVOLVING WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS FROM EUROPE AND PRESSURE FOR MULTIPLICATION OF EXPENDITURE ON DEFENSE, TO BRING US UP TO THE NEW AND MUCH HIGHER LEVEL OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE EXPENDITURE IN RELATION TO NATIONAL OUTPUT WHICH WOULD BE NEEDED. HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT SEEM LIKELY THAT WE SHALL BE FACED WITH THIS SITUATION IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

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" OUT ECONOMIC SITUATION VIS- A- VIS THE US IS THAT WE
NEED US INVESTMENT ON A LARGE SCALE IN THE YEARS AHEAD.
THIS IS AT PRESENT THREATENED NOT ONLY BY PROPOSALS
CONTAINED IN BURKE- HARTKE BILL BUT ALSO BY PROPOSALS
RELATING TO TRADE AND TO TAXATION OF US INVESTMENT
ABROAD RECENTLY ANNOUNCED BY US ADMINISTRATION. IT IS
NOT ANTICIPATED THAT BURKE- HARTKE PROPOSALS WILL BE
ADOPTED BY CONGRESS IN THEIR PRESENT FORM. THREAT TO
OUR ECONOMIC INTERESTS IS ALSO LESSENERED BY DISCRETIONARY
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NATURE OF POWERS CONTAINED IN ADMINISTRATION' S PROPOSALS.

" AT SAME TIME WE SHOULD NOT RELY UNDULY ON HAVING
SPECIAL POSITION IN RELATION TO US THAT WOULD PROTECT
US, MORE THAN OTHER COUNTRIES, FROM IMPACT OF ANY SHIFT
IN US POLICY IN MATTERS OF THIS KIND. ECONOMIC RELATION-
SHIP BETWEEN OURSELVES AND US WILL NOT BE UNDULY
INFLUENCED BY SENTIMENT.

" WE MUST ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT THE US MAY IN FORTH-
COMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH ENLARGED EEC SEEK TO ACHIEVE
SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATIONS OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL
POLICY, WHICH COULD BE TO DISADVANTAGE OF THIS COUNTRY.
ON THIS MATTER WE SHALL NO DOUBT FIND OURSELVES ALLIED
WITH NUMBER OF OTHER MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY, SEEKING TO
ACHIEVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN US AND COMMUNITY WHICH, WHILE
OFFERING RECIPROCAL BENEFITS TO BOTH, WILL NOT UNDERMINE
COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY.

" AT SAME TIME, HAVING THUS REALISTICALLY ASSESSED
OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH US, IT MUST BE NOTED THAT SINCE
AN INDEPENDENT US CAME INTO EXISTENCE TWO CENTURIES
AGO, IRELAND HAS HAD CLOSE, FRIENDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE
RELATIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY, EVEN IF MOSTLY AT LEVEL OF
CONTACTS BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS. COMMON LANGUAGE,
CERTAIN SIMILARITIES IN LEGAL AND POLITICAL STRUCTURES,
AND TIES OF BLOOD CAN, PERHAPS, GIVE IRELAND USEFUL
ROLE AT CERTAIN TIMES IN US- COMMUNITY RELATIONS. IT IS
PROPOSED TO STRIVE TO IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING IN RELATIONS
BETWEEN IRELAND AND US AND TO INITIATE ACTION IN
INFORMATIONAL AND CULTURAL AREAS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

" IN THUS BRIEFLY REVIEWING AMERICAN- IRISH RELATIONS

REFERENCE MUST BE MADE TO RECENT KISSINGER INITIATIVE FOR NEW EXAMINATION OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US AND EUROPE. THIS INITIATIVE IS CURRENTLY UNDER EXAMINATION BY GOVT, AND WILL, OF COURSE, BE DISCUSSED WITH OUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS. PRESIDENT NIXON'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO EUROPE WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERED."

4. COMMENT: IT IS CLEARLY EVIDENT THAT FONMIN FITZGERALD
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HAS DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION AND THINKING TO RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND EUROPE AND US AND IRELAND IN EUROPEAN CONTEXT FAR MORE THAN HIS PREDECESSOR FONMIN HILLERY. HIS APPROACH APPEARS REASONED, HIGHLY REALISTIC AND PRAGMATIC, AND INDICATES THAT GOI WILL TAKE BROADER, MORE COHERENT VIEW OF ITS RELATIONS, ALTHOUGH IT WILL WORK FIRMLY AND ACTIVELY FOR WHAT IT REGARDS AS IRISH INTERESTS, BOTH LARGE AND SMALL. FITZGERALD STATEMENT THAT HIS GOVT PROPOSES TO STRIVE FOR IMPROVED IRELAND- US UNDERSTANDING IS ENCOURAGING AND WE PROPOSE TO FOLLOW IT UP.
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